

THE NEW PLAYS

Riley's Endearing Characters
in "Home Again"

BY CHARLES BASNTON

ONE night, years ago, when James Whitcomb Riley was perched on a high stool at a lunch counter with a glass of milk and a ham sandwich in process of consumption, he turned and said to me: "Poetry, my boy, as I understand it, is the expression of the soul, simple or otherwise, and I try to make it as simple as this sandwich or a piece of pumpkin pie."

At that time Riley doubtless never dreamed he would be represented on the dramatic stage. But at the Playhouse last night his gentle, cherished

But with all his modesty, Mr. McLaughlin has made "Home Again" like a day in the country. It has Riley's endearing characters to give it human warmth, although it is lacking in dramatic quality as "Little Women." Riley, with his youthful ambitions, is portrayed as Jim Johnson, who plays the banjo while he is supposed to be studying law, jumps at the chance of taking part in a "medicine show," and after winning fame as a poet writing for an Indianapolis newspaper, returns to Greenfield and takes "Orphan Annie" to his heart and arms. The play is both simple and sentimental.

Tim Murphy came back to his own as the tramp father of Annie. Sympathetic, though maudlin at times, he gave a touch of poetry to the performance. Madeline Delmar made Annie imaginative without being too wild for the good of the play, and put a great deal of spirit into her recitation of the verses about the goblins that will get you if you don't watch out. In his capacity as the town marshal, Charles Dow Clark lived up to his badge, and Madlyn Arbuckle was another "Mr. Barnum" as the patent medicine doctor. Henry Duffy played Jim Johnson—in other words Riley—with a poetic touch, while Scott Cooper as the village magistrate, and Forrest Robinson as the village doctor did good work. "Home Again" is a play with lovable types—nothing more.



spirit came back to us in a rural comedy, called "Home Again." His poems were recited so industriously that "Doc" Liffers summed up Robert McLaughlin's sympathetic play by saying: "It's just like Friday afternoon in school." A better criticism of "Home Again" could not be written.

About Plays and Players

By BIDE DUDLEY

THE threatened argument over theatrical contracts between the Actors' Equity and several managers who are not using Equity forms of agreement did not materialize at the Hotel Astor yesterday as per schedule. The peace celebration dampened the fighting ardor of everybody concerned. That is, nobody wanted to get into arguments with the glorious feeling of victory in the air, so the Equity Council met at noon and called the affair off temporarily. It is probable that the meeting will be held Sunday afternoon, but that isn't definitely settled.

"This is no day for dissension," said one of the Equity officers. "But," he added pointedly, "there'll be other days."

BOXES BRING MONEY.
After the Enright dinner at the Friars Sunday night boxes for the Friars United War Campaign Frolic were auctioned. Ten boxes brought \$20,000. The auction will be continued at the Cohan & Harris Theatre this afternoon. The Frolic ought to net \$15,000.

MUST HAVE BEEN PUNK.
"Say," said a nice young man to us on Broadway yesterday, "a friend of yours was on the vaudeville bill at our theatre in Union Hill Sunday night."
He mentioned the performer's name and we asked how the fellow got along.
"Oh, he was terrible," replied the young man. "He'll never come back there. His monologue was punk."

A BOSTON SUGGESTION.
Boston may be the intellectual city it's cracked up to be, but sometimes it's a little slow. A few days ago we printed a paragraph about a man who intended to write an "after the war" song when he could find a rhyme for "armistice." From Boston comes this suggestion:
"Tell him to try 'dentifrice'."

MAVERICK RHYMES.
The latest has been it is said. With every 100 words you find one that will not rhyme with any other.

THIS PLAY GROWING.
One of the genuine surprises of the season is "A Stitch in Time," with Irene Fenwick featured, at the Fulton Theatre. Due to the influenza the play got a slow start, but it has built up in patronage daily until now Oliver D. Bailey and Lottie D. Meany, who wrote it, are threatened with real success.

SURE O'HARA COULD.
Former Deputy Police Commissioner George S. Dougherty tells the following story:
"James J. Corbett was speeding in his automobile uptown one day and a policeman named O'Hara stopped him. Seeing arrest night, Mr. Corbett pulled out a card of mine and said: 'My friend, how would you like to be a first-grade detective at \$2.00 a year instead of a patrolman at \$1.40?'"
"First!" replied O'Hara.
"Then take this card to my friend Sumstead's Worm Syrup."

Sumstead's Worm Syrup
For 50 years the safe and sure remedy for worms. It never fails. One bottle killed 100 worms. Sold everywhere. See a bottle. Dr. J. C. Sumstead, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

LITTLE MARY MIXUP



Well, How Would YOU Decide in a Case Like This?

THE BIG LITTLE FAMILY



We Fear You're a Little Twisted, Mrs. Little!

JOE'S CAR



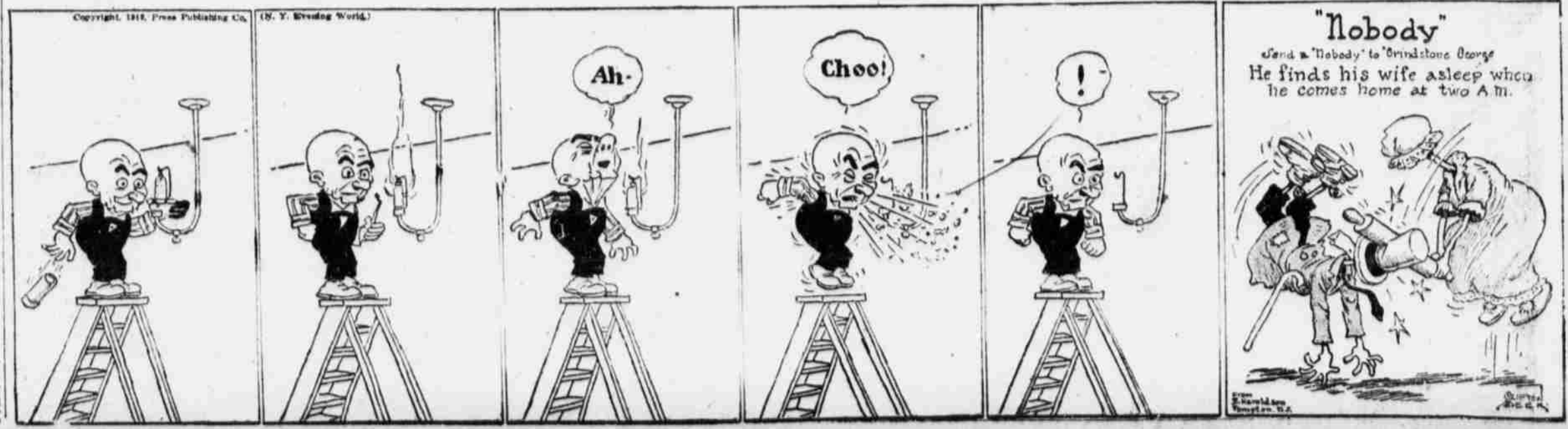
Joe's Figures Are Not NEARLY as Satisfactory!

"SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK"



"Between Meals"

GRINDSTONE GEORGE



The Job of Putting Up a Mantle Is Not to Be Sneezed At!

"Nobody"

Send a "Nobody" to Grindstone George. He finds his wife asleep when he comes home at two A.M.